



**December 3, 2023, 10:30 a.m.
First Sunday of Advent**

**First United Methodist Church of Newton
111 Ryerson Avenue, Newton NJ**

Order of Worship

(*Please rise in body or in spirit.)

PRELUDE		Christie Spriggs
GREETING		Rev. Todd Lattig
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (Hope)		Evelyn Cornwell
*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)		Kathleen Meredith
	Open your eyes, open your ears, God is coming soon!	
	We enter into this Advent season awaiting the One!	
	This is a time of joyful remembrance, a time to retell the story.	
	The story of how and why Jesus came to earth!	
	Open your eyes, open your ears, keep awake —	
	For the Son is coming soon!	
*HYMN	“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”	UMH 196
*OPENING PRAYER (unison)		Kathleen Meredith
	“Stay awake!” you urge. And so we shall. May it not be insomnia, born of anxiety, but other eagerness, knowing that you, God of surprises, are up to something. Amen	
ANTHEM	“Advent Gloria”	Chancel Choir
MISSION MOMENT		Rev. Lattig
COMMUNITY PRAYER		Rev. Lattig
CHORAL RESPONSE TO PRAYER		Chancel Choir
KIDS ROCK CHILDREN’S SERMON		Rev. Lattig
SCRIPTURE READING		Kathleen Meredith

Mark 13:24-37

²⁴ “At that time, after the anguish of those days,
the sun will be darkened,
the moon will give no light,
²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send out his angels to gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.

This Week's Schedule

Monday, Dec 4	10-11 Chair Yoga (HH) 11:30-12:30 LWJ Yoga (HH)
Tuesday, Dec 5	10-1 Life With Joy (HH) 6 Cub Scouts (HH) 6 Hypnosis for Health (Media Ctr)
Wednesday, Dec 6	10-3 Life With Joy (HH)
Thursday, Dec 7	10-1 Life With Joy (HH) 7 Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, Dec 9	9-2 Treasures of Hope 11 Celebration of Life: Terry Iliff
Sunday, Dec. 10	9 Joy Fellowship (HH) Sunday School (1B) 10:30 Sanctuary Service

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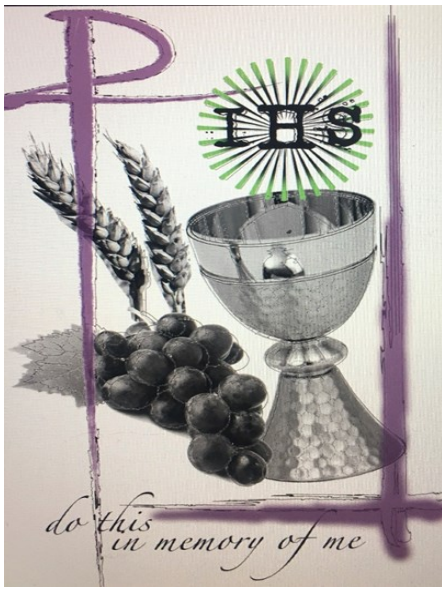
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Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor
Music Coordinator/Joy Fellowship
Advent Candle Liturgist
Liturgist
Greeter
Camera Operator
Soundboard Operator

Rev. Todd Lattig
Christie Spriggs
Evelyn Cornwell
Kathleen Meredith
Fred Fox
Jen Phlegar
Jay Morrison



Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin to God and one another.

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved
you with our whole heart. We have
failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will; we
have broken your law; we have
rebelled against your love; we
have not loved our neighbors; and
we have not heard the cry of the
needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free
us for joyful obedience, through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the Good News: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy are you, O God, and blessed is your son Jesus Christ.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which our Lord gave himself up for us he took the bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in unison with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

